

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186447

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CHINA ROCKED BY EARTHQUAKE

A STRONG EARTHQUAKE, CENTERED APPROXIMATELY 100 MILES SOUTH-EAST OF PEKING, HIT CHINA AT 1547 EDT, JULY 27 (0347 PEKING TIME, JULY 28). THE USLO REPORTS THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES MEASURED THE QUAKE AT 7.3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE; AP CITES THE EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION CENTER AS RATING THE EARTHQUAKE AT 8.4 ON THE RICHTER, MAKING IT THE LARGEST SINCE THE 1964 ALASKA TREMOR. ALL USLO PERSONNEL AND A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF DELEGATION IN PEKING ARE FINE. M. W. KELLOGG'S PEKING OFFICE REPORTED THAT IT KNOWS OF NO INJURIES TO ITS APPROXIMATELY 100 TECHNICIANS STATIONED THROUGHOUT CHINA. (UNCLASSIFIED) PEKING 1407, 7/28.)

2. BRITAIN BREAKING UP WITH BIG DADDY

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RESPONDING TO PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE TO DEAL VIGOROUSLY WITH AMIN, THE UK WILL ANNOUNCE JULY 28 ITS DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH UGANDA. EMBASSY LONDON NOTES THAT, IN THE TWO WEEKS SINCE THE MURDER OF MRS. BLOCH, WHITEHALL HAS LAID THE GROUNDWORK BY:

--PERSUADING AT LEAST 250 BRITISH NATIONALS TO DEPART UGANDA; AND

--ENLISTING THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF THE FRENCH, WHO WILL REPRESENT BRITISH INTERESTS IN KAMPALA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE FEARFUL THAT AMIN MAY VENT HIS ANGER ON THOSE BRITISH CITIZENS VOLUNTARILY REMAINING IN UGANDA, WHITEHALL OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE DECISION IS LONG OVERDUE. CONVINCED THE TIME FOR A BREAK IS NOW OR NEVER, THEY ARE CROSSING THEIR FINGERS AND PROCEEDING WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 11698, 7/27.)

3. KENYA'S GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI, IN A JULY 27 MEETING WITH CHIEFS OF MISSION AND THE PRESS IN NAIROBI, OUTLINED KENYA'S POSITION IN HER CONFLICT WITH UGANDA. WAIYAKI:

--DEMANDED, AS A NEW CONDITION FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, THAT UGANDA "NOT HOLD AS HOSTAGES" BURUNDI, RWANDA, THE SUDAN AND ZAIRE BY CONFISCATING GOODS DESTINED FOR THOSE COUNTRIES;

--REVEALED THAT KENYA HAD INVITED OAU SYG MBOUMOUNA TO MAKE AN INSPECTION TOUR OF KENYA; AND

--SAID KENYA WOULD WELCOME BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH UGANDA TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

IN ADDITION, A HIGH GOK OFFICIAL TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT ARAB AMBASSADORS WOULD BE WARNED TO STOP SUPPORTING UGANDA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE STATEMENT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT
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KENYA IS DETERMINED TO TOUGH OUT THE CONTINUING THREATS OF MILITARY ATTACK. THE REFERENCE TO HOLDING OTHER NATIONS HOSTAGE WAS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO DIVERT TO UGANDA THE PRESSURE WHICH THOSE COUNTRIES ARE APPLYING TO KENYA. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) NAIROBI 7869 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) 7844, 7/27.)

4. TANAKA ARREST PUNISHMENT FOR MIKI

EMBASSY TOKYO NOTES THAT THE JULY 27 ARREST OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER TANAKA HAS DESTROYED THE INTRA-PARTY LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC STANDOFF THAT HAS SUSTAINED MIKI IN POWER. THE EMBASSY OPINES THAT THE ARREST:

--WILL CAUSE WEEKS OF CONFUSION IN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT RANKS;

--DOES NOT MEAN THE END OF JAPAN'S LOCKHEED SCANDAL, BUT RATHER OPENS THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANY AND ALL WHO RECEIVED LOCKHEED MONEY COULD BE ARRESTED;

--WILL SHARPLY REDUCE ANY LINGERING SUSPICION OF A US-GOJ EFFORT TO COVER UP THE SCANDAL; AND

--WILL BRING POPULAR CREDIT TO MIKI FOR "ALLOWING" THE ARREST. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 11294, 7/27.) KISSINGER

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